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Amateur Home Decoration.

Edward Dewey, Jr., Ill.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

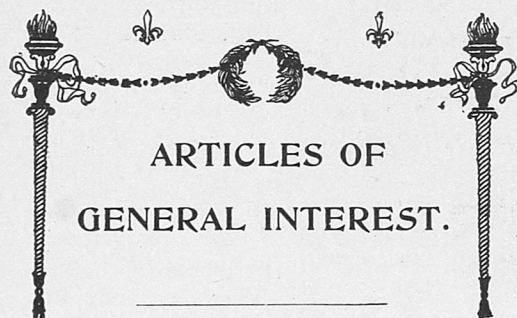
Subscribers who are either building new houses or are contemplating re-decorating their present homes are invited to write us for information regarding color harmony and artistic schemes of furnishing. We employ trained skill to solve all questions of interior decoration.

In compliance with the wishes of many of our correspondents to purchase housefurnishing goods in New York, we notify our readers that we have organized a Purchasing Department, and are prepared to purchase goods at prices quoted, without making any charge therefor. We strongly advise those who write to us for decorative color schemes to carefully consider our advice, with the samples of the various materials in hand, which we invariably send with each

reply, so that their minds will be fully made up when they ask us to Purchase the goods, and know that every item of their order is the result of a definite decision. It is impossible to exchange goods after the materials have been cut and shipped, and we hope, in all cases, that the goods as ordered, when sent will be accepted and paid for.

Correspondents when writing us are particularly requested to embody a reply to the following points in their letters:

1. Write legibly and on one side of the paper.
2. Send copy of architect's plan or a rough sketch of the plan of the house, showing size, height and arrangement of rooms, with the north and south aspects clearly indicated.
3. Give particulars of existing wood-work, mentioning the nature of the trim, floor, cornice, picture-moldings and mantel in each room; state what must be retained, and what, if any, specified articles of furniture are desired.
4. State separately the maximum outlay permissible for wall treatments, ceiling decoration (if any), textile hangings, carpets and furniture.
5. Send brief notes of the house, its location, age and environment, and such particulars of the owner's tastes and sentiments bearing upon the matter as would be discovered from a personal interview.
6. Send ten two-cent stamps if samples of paper, carpets, draperies, etc. are desired by mail, otherwise we must express same at inquirer's expense.



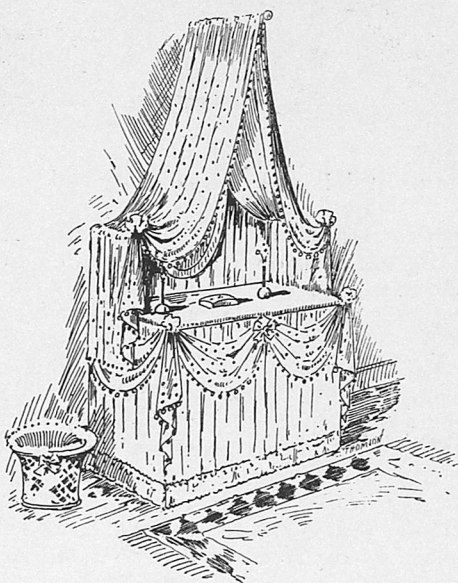
ARTICLES OF GENERAL INTEREST.

HOW TO TREAT VARNISHED WOODS.

STEAM heat is responsible for many things besides the occasional ruin of a carpet through a broken pipe. The lighter sorts of furniture, especially bamboo, warp and crack in steam-heated rooms. To counteract this, they should be rubbed regularly with equal parts of linseed oil and turpentine, applied with a flannel and then rubbed in with a soft cloth. Bamboo is also improved by an occasional wash in cold water, if thoroughly dried afterward.

Those who number mahogany and rosewood among their possessions, and also those who have pieces of black walnut furniture, may keep them in order by rubbing with linseed oil or crude petroleum, a very little being put on at a time, and rubbed in thoroughly until the surface looks like a mirror. If the rubbing is done once every two weeks it is not at all difficult to get a good shine in a short time, but the first ap-

plication may require longer. Any of the natural woods that are not varnished can be polished in the same way, but varnished surfaces should be washed with water in



A SIMPLE AND PRETTY HOME-MADE DRESSING TABLE.

which tea leaves have been steeped for half an hour. This will make them much brighter than if washed with soap and water, and, unlike, the latter, will not remove the gloss.

When the varnished furniture becomes scratched, the spots should be gone over with a camel's hair brush and shellac varnish till they disappear. Nothing should be allowed to touch the places until the application is thoroughly dry. If a small splinter of wood is knocked off a bureau or chair, glue it on again with a little liquid glue, and if the edges show white color them with paint to match the rest of the wood. When this is dry, varnish and the break will hardly be perceptible. If the broken piece is large, and where it is likely to be hit and knocked off again, in addition to the glue secure it in position with small brads, or, for a makeshift, pins driven in as far as possible and the remainder filed off flat to the surface. The end of the pin must be touched with the paint at the same time as the edges.

When larger breaks occur, such as the leg of a chair or the arm of a sofa, do not trust to glue alone, but strengthen the weak part with an extra piece of wood, nailed on the side that does not show, in such a manner that the nails do not come quite through to the right side.

To remove ink stains from mahogany, rosewood or black walnut furniture, put half a dozen drops of spirits of nitre in a spoonful of water, and touch the stain with a feather wet with this. As soon as the ink disappears rub the place with a cloth wet with cold water, or the nitre will leave a white spot that will be very difficult to remove. If, after washing off the nitre, the ink spot still appears, apply the treatment a second time.

THE TRAIL OF THE MICROBE.

THERE is no place in the home where disease is so apt to lurk as in the Larvæ abiding-places under carpets, and in the unsanitary conditions presented by soft wood floors. The public is fast being brought to an appreciation of this condition, and to guard against this danger, are having their floors covered with thin hardwood, three eighths of an inch thick, which are made a permanent part of the house by being securely bradded to the under floors. These thin floors are so treated in their manufacture that no possible shrinkage can occur after being laid, and present a surface which is absolutely dust and microbe proof. These floors need not of necessity be elaborate in pattern, they can be of what is termed Wood Carpet framing in the centre area with mitred corners and a simple Parquetry border next the wall, as shown in above cut.

Such a floor can be laid and finished complete, at the cost of a good carpet. These polished hardwood floors are less care than carpets, and will last as long as the house.

If the treatment of the room calls for a more decorative pattern, the centre can be filled with a Parquetry design, as shown in the cut below.

People contemplating this European method of floor treatment plan to have their carpets made into squares for the centre of the rooms.

Modern methods of manufacturing Parquetry, and the advantage of location of plant in the choice hardwood district of this country, enables The Interior Hardwood Co., of Indianapolis, Indiana, to offer at reasonable prices, within the reach of all, both plain and ornamental floors of the finest hardwoods.

They also make a prepared Floor Wax, under the brand "Interior" which is easily applied and preserves the wood in all its natural beauty, beside giving the polished surface desirable for cleanliness and health. Correspondence is invited regarding this flooring, its finish, or the proper care of hardwood floors. C.

CULTURE OF PLANTS UNDER COLORED GLASS.

THE influence exerted by colored glass upon the development of plants is a subject that has attracted attention for a long time. All luminous radiations are far from presenting the same efficiency in forcing the growths of plants. The most recent work done in this line of research is due to Mr. Villon, who, in the first place, instituted a series of laboratory experiments. He placed some potted plants in a large, well-ventilated case, presenting all the conditions beneficial to their proper development. The panes of glass of this case could be easily replaced by others of different colors. His experiments were made upon the following kinds of glass: (1) White glass; (2) uranium glass absorbing light; (3) blue glass covered with cobalt, allowing the ultra-violet to pass; (4) blue glass covered with copper, allowing the ultra-violet to pass, absorbing the extreme red rays; (5) red glass covered with protoxide of copper, absorbing all the colors of the spectrum between red and blue; (6) glass made orange color by a coating of bichromate of potash and allowing only yellow and red to pass; (7) violet glass colored with manganese, absorbing the yellow and blue; (8) green glass colored with protoxide of iron, absorbing the rays; and (9) glass covered with a thin layer of silver, allowing only the blue rays to pass. The results obtained are found in the following table, where the

growth of the plants under white glass is represented by 100:

Culture under white glass.....	100
" " bichromated orange glass.....	150
" " manganese violet glass.....	160
" " cobalt blue glass.....	140
" " copper blue glass.....	120
" " silvered glass.....	60
" " uranium glass.....	40
" " gilded glass.....	40
" " red (protoxide copper) glass.....	15
" " green (protoxide of iron) glass.....	10

It must be concluded from these figures that the light that favors vegetation best is

wine, butyric ferments, etc.), and, finally, upon silkworms, which are more vigorous when they are raised in a room lighted by violet glass.

A DISSERTATION ON BEAUTY.

KEATS and Ruskin the Englishmen, and Emerson and Holmes the Americans, have uttered right thoughts concerning beauty. Indeed, all truly great men have perceived its value, its mission and the criterion by which it must be judged.

In the case of physical beauty there must

be, and in real instances there is, a substratum of character that assures the spectator of taste and admiration justified and not perverted, for there is a marvellous difference between beauty and handsomeness. "Handsome is as handsome does," runs the old adage, but genuine beauty requires no further guarantee. Such, indeed, is characteristic of the world-famous Columbia bicycle, which is peerless in grace. The delicate refinements of process and adjustment that distinguish the Columbia are the effects of unexcelled facilities and oppor-

tunities, coupled with the important influence of the immense trade which encourages, indeed demands, constant expert attention to every item of wheel manufacture. The most cultured sensibilities find in the Columbia bicycle

"A sweet attractive kind of grace,
A full assurance given by looks."

TO MAKE GROUND GLASS.

THERE is a time in every amateur photographer's photographic life when he feels the need of a bit of good ground glass, and use can be found for a number of pieces in various ways. Nothing is better to print a soft negative under than a bit of ground glass; nothing acts so well as a diffuser of light for enlarging or reducing; and yet how few use it! A spoiled plate stripped of the emulsion can be changed into a good bit of ground glass in about half an hour by the following procedure:—Procure from the kitchen tin about a teaspoonful of emery powder, used for cleaning knives, etc.; put this in the centre of a large piece of common glass resting on a flat surface—nothing is better than several thicknesses of newspaper on a table. Then, taking a cabinet print-cutting shape with a knob, rub the emery powder hard. This is merely a preliminary, and grinds down the larger pieces which would scratch the piece destined to be ground. Now, collecting the emery, put it aside for a moment and fix the piece of glass to be ground in the place of the other. Put a little emery in the centre, and, with the cutting-shape pressed steadily, move rapidly with a rotary motion, grinding the surface, adding more emery as it is used up. At first it will be found that the surface will be covered with scratches and the work looks spoiled; but if the action is continued steadily, less than half an hour will finish a piece far superior to that usually sold in the shops.



A HANGING LANTERN IN BENT IRON.

DESIGNED BY THE VENETIAN

BENT IRON CO., N. Y.

(See Article on Page 180)

the orange light of the chromatic glass and the violet light of the manganic; and, as radiations that these glasses allow to pass are the red ones, it is, in definitive, red that is most favorable to the development of plants.

Mr. Villon has made some new experiments, whence it results that the best light is that which traverses manganese violet glass, that is to say, that which contains the red, the violet, and the calorific rays. These latter experiments were made upon the grapevine, ornamental flowering plants, the useful ferments (yeast of beer, ferment of